

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0012] as follows:

The present invention fulfills the needs of the golf industry by providing a novel process and apparatus for installation of a handgrip onto a golf club shaft. The present invention is able to accomplish this preferably with a moisture activated grip[[,]] tape which allows for adherence of the grip to the shaft in a reduced time period.

Please amend paragraph [0013] as follows:

One aspect of the present invention is an apparatus for applying a handgrip to a butt end of a golf club shaft wrapped in a double-sided water activated tape. The apparatus includes a base, a shaft retention device, a moveable attachment mechanism, a fluid source and a compressed gas source. The base has a first end and a second end. The shaft retention device has a body with an aperture therethrough for placement of a shaft therein. The shaft retention device is positioned at a first end of the base and extends outward from the base. The aperture of the body is positioned within a first horizontal plane parallel to the base. The moveable attachment mechanism includes a grip attachment device and a misting device. The grip attachment device includes a first base block, a second base block, a first guiding rod, a second guiding rod, an arm and an inflation device with a [[barb]] needle. The first and second base blocks connect the grip attachment device to the base and extend outward from the base. The first guiding rod is slideably positioned through an aperture in the first base block, and the second guiding rod is slideably positioned through an aperture in the second base block. The first and second guiding rods are attached to the arm. The [[barb]] needle is attached to the arm between the attachment of the first and second guiding rods. The misting device includes a nozzle for dispensing water

onto a tape and a support structure for positioning the nozzle forward of a grip attached to the ~~[[barb]]~~ needle and in a second horizontal plane above the first horizontal plane. The water source is in flow communication with the misting device, and the compressed gas source is in flow communication with the inflation device.

Please amend paragraph [0031] as follows:

The moveable attachment mechanism 48 provides the means for attaching the grip 25 to the butt end ~~[[34]]~~ 32 of the shaft 30 wrapped in the double-sided water activated tape. The grip attachment device 55 generally includes a first base block 56a and a second base block 56b extending upward from the base. The first base block 56a has a first guiding rod 57a positioned therethrough, and the second base block 56b has a second guiding rod 57b positioned therethrough. Each of the guiding rods 57a and 57b ~~[[are]]~~ is attached to an arm 58 at an end opposite the base blocks 56a and 56b. The arm 58 and the guiding rods 57a and 57b generally lie on the same horizontal plane with the shaft 30 placed through the aperture 54 of the shaft retention device 52. The guiding rods 57a and 57b allow for the arm 58 to move forward and rearward along the first horizontal plane in order to attach a grip 25 to a shaft 30.

Please amend paragraph [0032] as follows:

The arm 58 provides a support for a ~~[[barb]]~~ needle 61 of the grip inflation device 60. The ~~[[barb]]~~ needle 61 is positioned on the arm 58 between the guiding rods 57a and 57b. The ~~[[barb]]~~ needle is in flow communication with a source of gaseous source 62 for inflating the grip 25 from a first diameter to a second diameter for installation on the shaft 30. In a preferred embodiment, the gaseous source is an air source that injects compressed air into the grip 25 through the rear aperture 29 at preferably between 20 and 75 pounds per square inch, and more

preferably at least 40 pounds per square inch. The air or other gas, assists in the removal of excess fluid from the tape 22. In an alternative embodiment, the gaseous source may be blown through the tip end of a shaft without a golf club head.

Please amend paragraph [0034] as follows:

As shown in FIG. 4, a shaft ~~[[30]] 40~~ has a golf club head 100 attached thereon at a tip end 34 of the shaft 30. The tip end 34 is inserted into a hosel of the golf club head 100. A butt end 32 of the shaft 30 has an opening to a hollow interior 38. Generally, the butt end 32 has a greater circumference than the tip end ~~[[32]] 34~~. The shaft 30 may be composed of a graphite material, a steel material or the like. The shaft 30 may come in various lengths depending on the golf club. The golf club may be an iron, a wood, a driver or a putter. The apparatus 20 and method of the present invention ~~[[is]]~~ are particularly applicable to a shaft for a putter. Although one type of shaft 30 has been illustrated and described, those skilled in the pertinent art will recognize that most if not all types of shafts may be utilized in conjunction with the present invention.

Please amend paragraph [0036] as follows:

As shown in FIG. 6, a shaft 30 with a golf club head 100 has a double-sided water based tape 22 applied to the butt end of the shaft 30. The tape 22 is preferably applied along the portion of the shaft 30 that is covered by the grip 25. ~~[[Ina]]~~ In a preferred embodiment, the double-sided water based tape 22 is applied to have a gap 93 defined by tape edges 97a and 97b. The gap 93 reduces wrinkling of the tape 22 during application of the grip 25 over the tape 22. The width of the gap 93 is preferably 0.10 inch to 0.25 inch, and most preferably 0.15 inch.

Please amend paragraph [0038] as follows:

As shown in FIGS. 1-3, a shaft 30 is placed in the aperture 54 of the shaft retention device 52 to position the shaft 30 in a first horizontal plane above the base 50 of the apparatus 20. The butt end [[34]] 32 of the shaft 30 is wrapped with a double-sided water activated tape 22. The golf club head 100 may or may not be attached to the tip end [[32]] 34 of the shaft 30. The grip 25 is attached to the [[barb]] needle 61 of the grip inflation device 60 to position the opening 28 of the grip 25 facing the taped butt end [[34]] 32 of the shaft 30. The grip inflation device 60 is activated and air flows into the grip 25 through the rear aperture 29 thereby inflating the grip 25 from a first diameter to a second diameter. The misting device 40 is activated [[at]] and water 45 is misted from the nozzle onto the double-sided water activated tape 22 prior to the grip 25 being moved over the butt end [[34]] 32 of the shaft 30. The water or fluid 45 is misted at a rate of 2 to 30 milliliters per minute, more preferably from 8 to 15 milliliters per minute, and most preferably at approximately 11 milliliters per minute. A minimum amount of water is utilized to increase the initial grip strength of the attached grip and to reduce the adverse affects to the swing weight of the club from water evaporating. Further, the increase in initial grip strength allows for a reduction in mis-aligned grips. The shaft 30 may be rotated to mist the entire circumference of the tape 22.

Please amend paragraph [0040] as follows:

As shown in FIG. 2, the grip 25 is covering a portion of the tape 22 on the butt end [[34]] 32 of the shaft 30. As the moveable attachment mechanism 48 moves the grip 25 over the butt end [[34]] 32 of the shaft 30, the tape 22 forward of the opening 28 of the grip 25 is activated by the water from the nozzle 44 of the misting device 40. As the grip 25 is applied over the tape

22, excess water is forced out of the tape 22 by the pressure of the grip 25 and the air flowing through the grip 25, thereby increasing initial grip strength.

Please amend paragraph [0041] as follows:

As shown in FIG. 3, the grip 25 is fully placed on the butt end ~~[[34]]~~ 32 of the shaft 30 and the misting device 40 and the grip inflation device 60 are deactivated. The gripped shaft 30 is removed from the shaft retention device 52 and the ~~[[barb]]~~ needle 61 is removed from the rear aperture 29 of the grip. The gripped shaft 30 is then removed from the apparatus 20.